DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF MONTANA-DAKOTA	)	UTILITY DIVISION
UTILITIES CO., Application for Annual Review	)	
of its Monthly Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment	)	DOCKET NO. D99.4.93
Procedure and Final Approval of Previous Monthly	)	ORDER NO. 6208
Interim Rate Changes Resulting from that Procedure	)	
IN THE MATTER OF MONTANA-DAKOTA	)	UTILITY DIVISION
UTILITIES CO. – miscellaneous	)	
	)	DOCKET NO. D97.3.56
	)	ORDER NO. 5974b

FINAL ORDER

On April 12, 1999, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) an application for continued approval of MDU's monthly gas cost tracking adjustment procedure (monthly tracker) and final approval of the present month's (May 1999) and previous months' (June 1998 through April 1999) interim rate changes resulting from that procedure. MDU states that the monthly tracker continues to achieve its objectives, including making gas costs reflective of the market in a timely manner, promoting customer understanding by pricing closer to actual price-affecting events, providing proper and timely price signals to customers, and minimizing the unreflected gas cost account balance to avoid cost shifts from one period to another.

On April 19, 1999 the PSC issued a Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline on MDU's application. The Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) requested intervention in the proceeding and is the only person to do so. Following preliminary inquiries on the matter the MCC has indicated that no hearing or further proceedings are necessary on the matter. The PSC agrees and approves MDU's application.

MDU's monthly trackers being approved on a final basis in this proceeding are summarized as follows:

Rate-Effective Month Docket No. (filing month plus one)		Rate Change Residential and General Service		Rate Change Large Interruptible	
June 1998	D98.5.126	+	.203	+	.197
July 1998	D98.6.128	-	.591	-	.594
August 1998	no change		.000		.000
September 1998	D98.8.182	+	.221	+	.205
October 1998	D98.9.204	-	.158	-	.158
November 1998	D98.10.242	+	.146	+	.125
December 1998	D98.11.266	+	.302	+	.183
January 1999	no change		.000		.000
February 1999	no change		.000		.000
March 1999	D99.2.28	-	.152	-	.177
April 1999	D99.3.56	-	.195	-	.103
May 1999	D99.4.93	+	.044	-	.013
Cumulative		-	.180	-	.335

MDU is a public utility. The PSC has jurisdiction over MDU in regard to this matter pursuant to Title 69, MCA. MDU's gas cost trackers for the rate-effective months of June 1998 through May 1999 have been filed and processed in accordance with law and applicable MDU tariffs. The rate changes proposed in MDU's monthly trackers on an interim basis are reasonable and just and are hereby approved on a final basis. MDU has demonstrated sufficient cause to continue the monthly tracker. MDU's monthly gas cost tracker procedure is approved for an additional year, to expire at the time the PSC issues an order following review of MDU's next annual gas cost true-up procedure, unless MDU demonstrates at that time sufficient cause to continue the monthly gas cost tracker.

The PSC also takes this opportunity to approve on a final basis any miscellaneous pending MDU matters before the PSC that should be finalized. The PSC determines that MDU has one pending matter in this category. The PSC's interim order (Order No. 5974a) issued May 23, 1997 in Docket No. D97.3.56, MDU's spring 1997 gas cost tracking procedure is hereby approved on a final basis.

Done and dated this 26th day of October, 1999, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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DAVE FISHER, Chair

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NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

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BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

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GARY FELAND, Commissioner

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BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A
             motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.